(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Such offers are received from time to time and duly considered on their merits.

[Translation]

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

3388. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made arrangement for the pilgrims going to Kailash Mansarover this year;

(b) the facilities made available alongwith the number of pilgrims visiting each place;

(c) the arrangements made for the safety of life and property of the pilgrims during the pilgrimage; and

(d) whether full safety arrangement have been made to counter the rain and storm as it occurred last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The facilities provided by the Government include transportation; accommodation; medical assistance; security and escort cover; wireless communication links between Delhi and places enroute on the Indian side as also with China; aerial evacuation of pilgrims in case of emergencies; and; related publicity and other infrastructure of logistics.

In 1996, 435 pilgrims in 14 batches undertook the Yatra. As of 5 August, 1997, 340 pilgrims have proceeded on the Yatra in 10 batches. Another four batches are expected to go before the Yatra concludes in September, 1997.

The Government is taking every possible measure in cooperation with concerned Central and State police and other authorities to ensure the safety of life and property of the pilgrims, including in cases of natural disasters or in life-threatening situations.

[English]

Top Posts in Government

3389. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes appointed to the posts of Directors, Joint Secretaries, Additional Secretarios and Secretaries in the Government during the last three years;

(b) whether any steps have been taken in pursuance of provisions of Article 16(4) (c) of the Constitution to fill up top-most posts under the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) During the three year period from August 94 to July 97, 45 posts of Directors, 29 posts of Joint Secretaries, 9 posts of Additional Secretaries and 5 posts of Secretaries/equivalent posts were filled by appointing officers beloning to SC/ST categories.

(b) to (d) While adjudging the suitability of officers for placement/appointment to senior posts, effort is made to ensure representation of SCs/STs to the extent possible.

Promotion Rules

3390. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry had issued a letter regarding the promotion of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to State Governments including Orissa;

(b) whether the Ministry had revised the letter after recent amendment to the Constitution relating to reservation in promotion under Article 16(4) and subsequent the Supreme Court Judgement on the same line; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the State Governments including Orissa to implement the same while considering the promotions in State Service cadre officers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) It was clarified to all Ministries/Departments of the Government vide instructions issued in August, 1993 that according to the directions of the Supreme Court in Indira Sawhney's case, the reservation for SCs/STs in the matter of promotion, would continue for five years from the date of the judgement i.e. upto 15.11.1997. A copy of these instructions was also forwarded to the Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments for information and appropriate action. No revision has been made in these instructions.

(c) The subject of reservation in the services under the State Governments is the exclusive concern of the concerned State Governments.